

CHAIRE sur la décarbonisation CHAIR in decarbonization ESG UQAM

2021-2022 Annual Report of the Chair in Decarbonization



About the Chair

The Chair in Decarbonization is a strategic research unit at the École des sciences de la gestion (ESG) at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). Its objective is to improve understanding of the social, economic and political conditions favoring decarbonization in both developed and developing countries and cultivate a network of collaborating partners in Quebec, Canada and internationally. It does so by building bridges between various analytical and methodological approaches of the social sciences, natural sciences, engineering as well as communities of practice. Decarbonization consists of reconfiguring socio-economic systems centered on fossil fuels and on unsustainable land-use practices in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Its research axes include : (1) Evaluation of the effectiveness of decarbonization initiatives in the energy, transport and land-use sectors; (2) Comparative political economy of decarbonization; and (3) Measuring progress in regional and international cooperation on climate change.

May 2022

Introduction

This is the first annual report of the Chair in Decarbonization! The first few months of 2021 were dedicated to establishing the institutional structure of the Chair and its online presence. The Chair was officially launched through a webinar-seminar in September 2021 at ESG-UQAM. During this initial year, much energy of the Chair has been directed towards establishing its institutional structure, online presence as well as managing on-going research, particularly that related to the Joint Clean Climate Research Partnership (JCCTRP).

Administrative Structure

The Chair was announced in early 2021 and the first few months were dedicated to building its institutional structure. This includes a five-person steering committee comprised of professors and administrative personnel at UQAM. Two research councils have also been created, including one focused on research in Quebec, Canada and North America while the other is focused on international issues. Members of research councils meet on a biannual basis to discuss decarbonization developments and potential research opportunities.

The Chair has been able to recruit a coordinator to provide logistical support to ongoing research projects, updating website and social media as well as undertaking research in support of the Chair. The current coordinator is Fabrice Mukendi, who is a PhD student at the Department of Political Science at UQAM.

Website and Social Media

Amongst the first activities of the Chair was the construction of a bilingual website as well as social media accounts, including Twitter (150 followers), LinkedIn (111 followers), and YouTube (4 subscribers). We also have a Mailchimp list that we use to send out email notices about activities, which has currently 419 subscribers. A social media strategy is being developed that we hope will increase the number of people that are reached. One of the challenges is to ensure that outreach materials are in French and English in order to have greater impact.

Seminar-Webinar Series

A number of hybrid seminar-webinar sessions have been organized over the academic year

2021-2022. Events were promoted online and through our social While in fall 2021 we sought to organize hybrid sessions, we switched to only webinars in 2022.

2021

- *Launch of the Chair in Decarbonization (in French)*
- *Key questions for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Scotland (in French)*
- *Climate and transport policy in California*
- *COP26 report, including discussions with policy actors (in French)*
- *The response of Fondation and SOFIAC to the climate challenge (in French)*

2022 (to date)

- *Evaluating the Political Logic of the Green New Deal*
- *The New Federal Emissions Reduction Plan for 2030: what implications for the transportation sector? (in French)*
- *Evaluating the Transformational Impact of a Forest Carbon Offset Program in Uganda: Lessons from a Ten-Year Investigation of the "Trees for Global Benefits" Program.*

2022 (upcoming)

- *Results from the May 2022 auction of the California-Quebec carbon market (in French)*
- *Techno-economic modeling of transportation and climate policy sequencing in Quebec and Ontario*
- *Comparative analysis of transportation fuel carbon intensity standards in Canada and the US*
- *The role of energy system modeling in energy transitions in East Africa : a comparative political economy approach*

UQAM Delegation to COP

Chair has supported the UQAM's official delegation to the annual Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). While covid limited the delegation to only three individuals for COP26 in Glasgow, future delegations are expected to be better organized.

Student Training

There are currently two Masters students working on issues related to research priorities of the Chair (both in the environmental sciences

programme). Two PhD students are anticipated for fall 2022 (1 in economics, 1 in political science). The Chair also supported the participation of one student to participate in COP26. More might be done to attract students, including offering scholarships and profiling students on the website of the Chair.

Research Collaborations

JCCTRP

The Joint Clean Climate Research Partnership (JCCTRP) continues to be one of the key research projects supported by the Chair. This includes supporting the coordination of working groups :

- *WG1 : Techno-economic modeling of transportation and climate policy sequencing in Quebec and Ontario*
- *WG2 : Integrating land-use and transportation integrated (LUTI) models in the regional transportation policy process : a case-study of Toronto.*
- *WG5 : Comparative analysis of transportation fuel carbon intensity standards, including the forthcoming Canadian federal standard and existing standards in California, BC and Oregon.*
- *WG6 : Comparison of the role of modeling in the regional transportation policy process in Los Angeles and Montreal.*

Importantly, the Chair assisted with submission of a 2022 Partnership Grant proposal to expand the JCCTRP to include additional jurisdictions.

Public Opinion Research

The Chair has collaborated with Consortium on Electoral Democracy (C-Dem) which is co-directed by Professor Allison Harell at UQAM. C-DEM is a network that brings together over 50 researchers and partner organisations across Canada. They seek to foster the co-development of research and policy-relevant data and analysis. With C-Dem, the Chair has been able to participate in public opinion research, including funding a spring 2022 survey of Quebecers about Quebec climate policy. Results will be available in fall 2022.

Energy Transitions in East Africa

The Chair has supported meetings of a group of researchers investigating energy transitions Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. This project draws on collaborations with researchers of the

Environment for Development Initiative (EfD), particularly those at EfD canter in East Africa. The first phase of the project has focused on energy system modeling capabilities while the second phase will focus on modeling energy systems using the LEAP model.

Centre d'étude de la forêt (CEF)

Professor Purdon has been invited to be an associate member of the Centre d'étude de la forêt (CEF). While the CEF has traditionally been focused on forest ecology and forest management, it is interested in considering broader issues of forest policy, economics and governance.

Climate Talk Canada

The Chair has been invited to serve as secretariat of Climate Talk Canada. This initiative is comprised of climate policy professionals from academia, business and law, located in all regions of Canada. The group meets electronically each month to engage in a cross-regional discussion on one of the key challenges facing Canadian climate change mitigation policy.

IEIM

The Chair has been invited to be a member of the Montreal Institute of International Studies (IEIM). The goal of the IEIM is to support, strengthen and deepen research, training and knowledge mobilization initiatives of research centers and chairs at UQAM involved in the field of international studies. Such status affords the Chair access to IEIM vast network of international practitioners as well as logistical support for outreach activities, including webinars.

Academic Conferences

Research associated with the Chair was featured in a number of academic conference including :

- *2021 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*
- *2022 Annual Meeting of the Sustainability and Development Initiative*
- *2022 Annual Conference of the Canadian African Studies Association*

Publications

Working Paper Series

The Chair initiated a working paper series in 2022 to stimulate discussion within the research community and among users of research. Each

will have been reviewed by at least one internal referee before publication. Their content may have been submitted or will be later submitted for publication in an academic journal. Working papers of the Chair may be freely quoted and reproduced provided the source is acknowledged.

- *Purdon M and Byakagaba P (2022) Evaluating the transformational impact of a forest carbon offsetting programme in Uganda: Lessons from a ten-year investigation into the Trees for Global Benefits programme — Working Paper No. 2022-1, Chaire sur la décarbonisation, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Montréal.*

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- *Purdon M, Witcover J, Murphy C, Ziaja S, Winfield M, Giuliano G, Séguin C, Kaiser C, Papy J and Fulton L (2021) Climate and transportation policy sequencing in California and Quebec. Review of Policy Research 38:596-630.*

Other Academic Publications

- *Purdon M, Séguin C and Papy J (2021) Le marché du carbone présente des avantages pour le Québec. Policy Options.*

Other Upcoming Activities

Webinar Series on Carbon Market Auction Results

The Chair will organize a series of webinars to present results from quarterly auctions of the Quebec-California carbon market.

JCCTRP Symposium

The Chair is leading the organization of a JCCTRP Symposium in Montreal in September 2022. Some activities of the Symposium may be integrated with activities of the upcoming event *Les États-Unis à l'UQAM*.

Upcoming Events

- *2022 Annual Workshop of the Sustainable Energy Transitions Initiative (tbc)*
- *2022 Annual Meeting of the Environment for Development Initiative (tbc)*
- *2022 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*
- *2022 Toronto Conference on Earth Systems Governance*
- *Organization of UQAM delegation to the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt*

Administrative Annex

Steering Committee Members

- 1) Mark Purdon
 - Holder of the Chair in Decarbonization
 - Professor at the Department of Strategy, Social and Environmental Responsibility
- 2) Fabien Durif
 - Professor at the Department of Marketing
- 3) Charles Séguin
 - Professor at the Department of Economics
- 4) Maya Jegen
 - Professor at the Department of Political Science
- 5) Marie-France Lisé
 - Research and Planning Officer, UQAM

International Research Council Members

- 1) Elizabeth Robinson
 - Professor and Director, Grantham Research Institute (GRI), LSE
- 2) Axel Michaelowa
 - Perspectives Climate Group and University de Zurich
- 3) Razack Lokina
 - Professor, Department of Economics and Center Coordinator for EfD-Tanzania
- 4) Xavier Cavard
 - Professor at UQAT et holder of the Chair in Forest Carbon Management

- 5) Jérémie Mbairamadji
 - Forestry Officer, FAO Gabon
- 6) Nadège Compaoré
 - Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto.
- 7) Pascal Vallières
 - Climate change advisor, Quebec Ministry of Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change

North American Research Council Members

- 1) Minh Nguyen, PhD
 - Research Officer, Fondation CSN
- 2) Richard Adamson
 - CEO, Industrial Climate Solutions
- 3) Lisa Aultman-Hall
 - Professor, Chair, Systems Design Engineering, University of Waterloo
- 4) Matthew Cloutier
 - Executive Director, Clean Tech Policy, Environment and Climate Change Canada
- 5) Lewis Fulton
 - Director, STEPS, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis
- 6) Olivier Bahn
 - Professor, Department of Decision Sciences, HEC Montreal